

Husky Connections



SEPTEMBER 2020

Delayed Kickoff For Husky Football

Here we are in September 2020...a September like never before!

Under "normal" circumstances, a faithful band of alumni would be preparing to support the Huskies on a crisp Friday night of football at J. Birney Crum Stadium. Well, COVID-19 has blitzed any semblance of normalcy. The pigskin has been fumbled, and we're just waiting for someone to recover it.

The football team continues to practice. The cheerleaders and band members were also given the okay to gather for practice. Unfortunately, no decision has been made regarding spectators at the games, and that includes the cheerleaders, the band, parents, students, alumni...even Kiska, our beloved mascot.

On August 21st, the PIAA granted permission for fall sports to resume on a delayed basis, subject to the final approval of each local district. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (EPC) gave its sanction, and Allentown Superintendent Mr. Thomas Parker and the School Board agreed to allow play (with a 7-2 vote).

Currently, the plan is to have 18 schools in the EPC divided into three divisions, by county. League play would be limited to the divisional opponents. Accordingly, the **Dieruff High School 2020 Football schedule is as follows:**



Friday, October 2	Whitehall at Dieruff
Friday, October 9	Dieruff at Emmaus
Friday, October 16	Parkland at Dieruff
Saturday, October 24	Dieruff at CCHS
Saturday, October 31	Allen at Dieruff

It sure would be nice if all of the pieces could come together. We'll just have to wait and see. Abnormality reigns supreme.

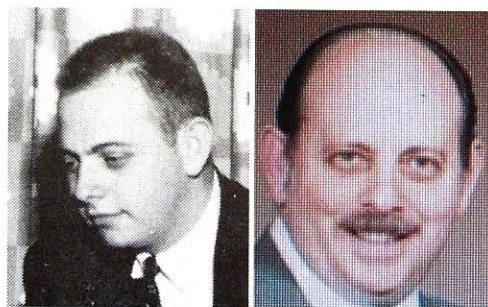
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Four Retired Teachers Pass Peacefully

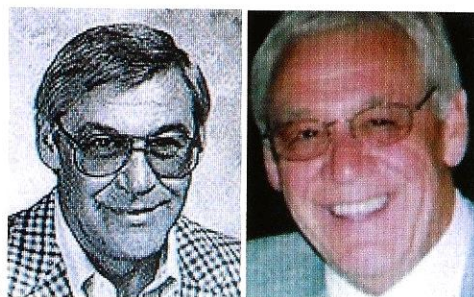
During the last several months, we learned of the peaceful passing of four retired teachers. Each enjoyed tremendous popularity during their careers at Husky High. We send our most sincere condolences to their families.

Gene L. Dieter Joining the Dieruff faculty in 1961, Mr. Dieter taught German for 37 years. For several years prior to his retirement in 1998, he served as the chair of the foreign language department. Many of his students have fond memories accompanying him on his numerous trips to Germany. He served as a coordinator of the Allentown-Saarbrücken Sister City Student Exchange Program.



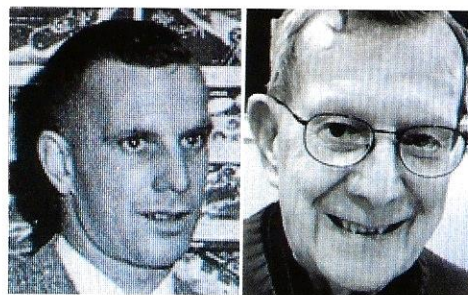
On March 23, 2020, Gene L. Dieter passed away at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Muhlenberg. He was 80 years old.

William R. Wood Mr. Wood taught at Dieruff High School for three decades. He also coached football and track. Having the unique experience of playing professional football for the New York Jets, Mr. Wood was inducted into the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the NFL Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He also was inducted into the Hall of Fame of his college alma mater, West Virginia Wesleyan College.



William R. Wood passed away on May 28, 2020 in Cape Regional Medical Center in New Jersey, at the age of 81.

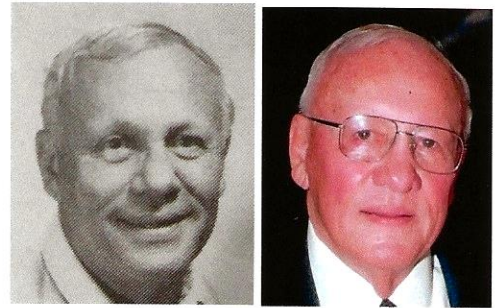
Robert D. “Mike” Brown Mr. Brown came on board the Dieruff faculty in 1961, teaching science and coaching football and track. Proudly, he served as the first Director of the Louis E. Dieruff High School Planetarium. He passionately fostered a keen interest in astronomy for many of his faithful and adoring students.



On August 12, 2020, Robert “Mike” Brown passed away in his sleep at the age of 89.
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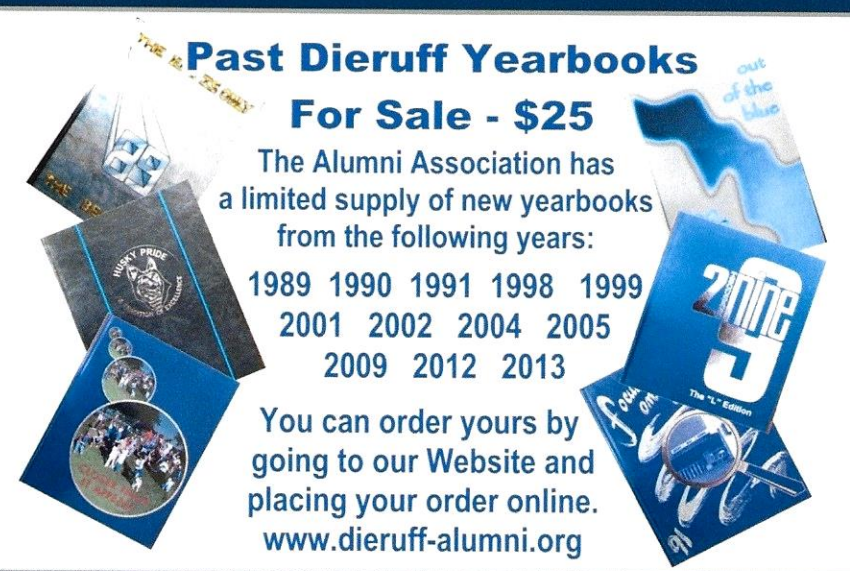
Four Retired Teachers Pass Peacefully *(continued from Page 2)*

Keith D. Newhard For 31 years, Mr. Newhard was the Driver's Education Teacher at Dieruff High School. He also served as the football coach, as well as the head track coach. Impressively, he earned East Penn League Football and Track Championships in 1981-1983. In 1985, Mr. Newhard was inducted into the Dieruff Hall of Fame, honoring athletic achievements. He held the title of the Louis E. Dieruff High School Athletic Director for 11 years. In 1995, Mr. Newhard was awarded Teacher of the Year for the Allentown School District, and in the year 1996, he was chosen as Pennsylvania Athletic Director of the Year. He retired from the Allentown School District in 1997.



At the age of 83, Keith D. Newhard passed away on August 28, 2020 at Fellowship Community in Whitehall.

Complete obituaries for all four of these deceased Dieruff High School teachers are available on our Alumni Association Website. In order to retrieve these obituaries, see the simple instructions on the next page, under the President's Message.



Past Dieruff Yearbooks

For Sale - \$25

The Alumni Association has a limited supply of new yearbooks from the following years:

1989 1990 1991 1998 1999
2001 2002 2004 2005
2009 2012 2013

You can order yours by going to our Website and placing your order online.
www.dieruff-alumni.org

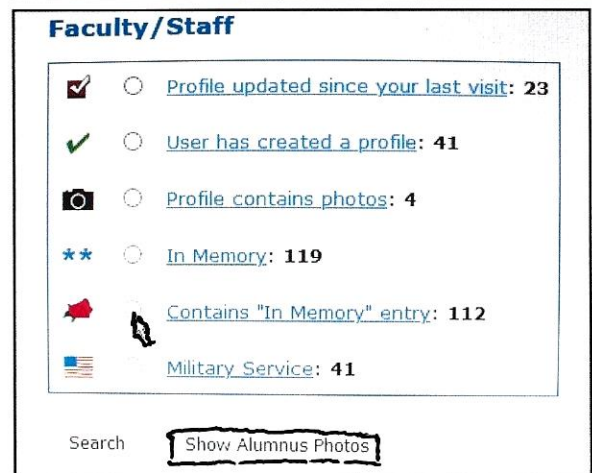
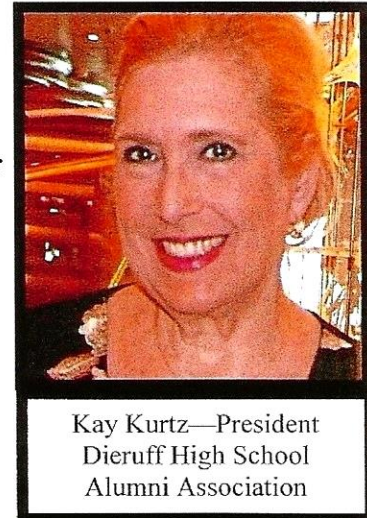
President's Message: Make Use of our Website

Our Alumni Association Website is a fascinating tool that is easy to use, and can provide you with valuable information.

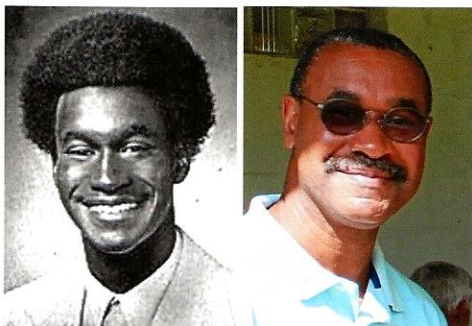
As an example, you can quickly retrieve the obituaries of your classmates, as well as faculty and staff members who have passed on. Let me use the four faculty members cited in this issue of our monthly bulletin to illustrate.

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Open the Website: www.dieruff-alumni.org
2. At the top of the Homepage, click on the link marked "*Faculty/Staff*".
3. Next, click on the circle next to "*Contains 'In Memory' Entry*", and also on the Box below marked "*Show Alumnus Photos*".
4. Scroll down to the desired faculty member, and click on his name.
5. The obituary will appear on the screen.
It is as simple as that! Try it!



FLASHBACK: Tribute to Trio of Track Coaches



Mark N Thomas, Class of 1976, was a District 11 long jump champion. During his three years at Dieruff, he was coached by three men who recently passed away: Bill Wood, Mike Brown, and Keith Newhard. Here, in our Flashback Column, Mark reflects on the life lessons and memories of these three teacher/coaches whom he grew to respect and adore.

Mr. Brown Like many students in the Allentown School District, I first met Mr. Brown at the Dieruff planetarium where we were all mesmerized by the incredible light show he produced for us.

Mr. Brown was what some people call a “gentle soul”. He was calm and soft-spoken. I honestly do not recall him ever raising his voice or showing even a hint of anger. He was the kind man who picked me up in his station wagon when he saw me walking to school on a cold, rainy morning.

Mr. Brown was a very religious man but not in an overt, preachy way. You knew it by the way he spoke, carried himself and lived. I know he was human, and I’m sure he would take exception to my saying it, but in his way, he was a saint. I distinctly remember being amazed, and frankly, very impressed, that his moral convictions were so deep and strong. I know my own moral beliefs got stronger and deeper from his example.

Mr. Wood My first memories of Mr. Wood are as a social studies teacher. I can still see him in his leisure suit. They were the rage in the 70’s!

Mr. Wood took over as assistant track coach my senior year. I have to be honest and say that I was not a fan of Mr. Wood at the time. I’ll tell you why. I was a jumper. I had been a jumper since the 7th grade at Harrison-Morton. Now, it’s not that we field guys didn’t work for our sport, but by definition, we didn’t have to run very much. We focused more on our form and our technique. We had fun. On the other hand, runners have to, well, run...a lot. It’s a lot of work.

At Mr. Wood’s suggestion, I got put on the 880 yard relay team which he coached. Track & field suddenly went from fun to work and I pretty much resented him for it

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FLASHBACK: Tribute to Trio of Track Coaches *(continued)*

for most of the season. It wasn't until after it was over that I appreciated how his guidance and leadership had taught me. Mr. Wood took four guys who had never worked together before and turned us into a team. By the end of that season, the team of Greg Miller, Tony Jordan, Mark Thomas and Don Cole was one of the best 880 relay teams in District 11. When I went off to college and then started a career, I often looked back on that experience as one where I learned the value and importance of hard work and teamwork---even and especially when it doesn't seem like fun.

Mr. Newhard Like so many other kids, Mr. Newhard taught me how to drive. I learned in a brown Ford Maverick. He was the first person to see my joy when I passed the driver test. To this day, when I make a turn, I occasionally hear a voice say "Brake into...gas out of".

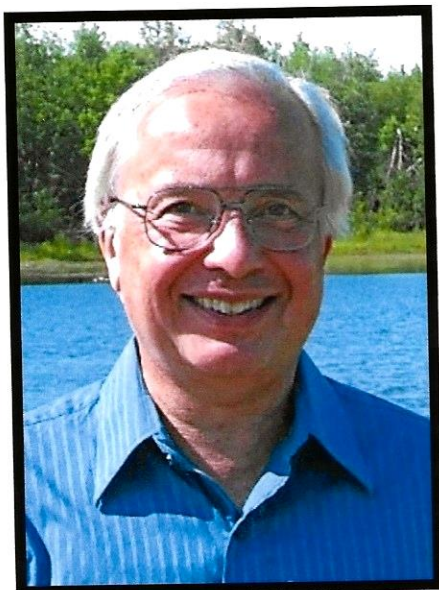
Mr. Newhard coached me through all three years of high school. He had some memorable expressions that still stick with me. Sometimes, one of us would make some ridiculous boast about how fast we were going to run or how high we were going to jump. We all knew that we probably couldn't do the thing if our life depended on it but that's what teenage boys do. Mr. Newhard would look at us with a smirk on his face and say "Son, if you do that, I'll kiss your (butt) in Hess's window". We would all fall out laughing at the thought of it.

My fondest memory of Mr. Newhard happened senior year. I had qualified for the state championships my first two years. In fact, I actually won the District 11 long jump in those years. My last year, they changed the rules. Instead of the top 3 district finishers going on to states, only the top two qualified. That year, I took 3rd place at districts even with a career best jump. I was crushed. Aside from the pain of losing, that trip to states was a really special reward after a long, hard season. As soon as he got on the bus and looked at me, Mr. Newhard must have seen the disappointment in my face. He said "Mark, you gave me 3 good years. You're going to states with us anyway!" I could have kissed him. He will never know how much that gesture meant to me. The loss still hurt but Coach's caring helped ease the pain so much. That day I learned how a simple act of kindness and generosity can have a huge impact on another person. I still tear up just thinking about it.

And so, from the bottom of my heart, I thank my three teacher-coaches. I hope they knew how much their lives affected and inspired so many people. May they all three rest in heavenly peace.

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction David G. Heinick, DMA '72

"Brilliant, enormously talented, yet very unassuming. A natural leader without trying to lead anyone." These are the words of Dieruff's first music teacher when describing the character of his former stand-out student, David Heinick '72, the third alumnus to be honored on our Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction for 2020.



An extraordinary scholar who excelled in every subject, David turned music into gold when he sat at the piano during show rehearsals, played in the pit orchestra, and accompanied the Dieruff Choir. His over-the-top talent particularly shined when he readily learned and mastered the difficult score to "West Side Story", the play that was presented during his sophomore year. He was only 15.

After graduating from Louis E. Dieruff High School in 1972, David continued his studies at the prestigious Eastman School of Music. From there, he attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he earned his doctoral degree. He then taught at the University of Maryland, St. Mary's College, and

lastly, at the esteemed SUNY-Potsdam Crane School of Music, from which he retired as a Professor of Music Theory and Composition in 2018.

This '72 Husky credits his high school music teacher, our beloved Mr. Carpenter, for encouraging him to compose. Over 100 of his works have been performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, and his pieces have been broadcast on NPR, the CBC, and on the BBC. An active collaborative pianist, David has also performed with countless prominent soloists and members of major orchestras.

The Dieruff High School Alumni Association is proud to recognize Dr. David Heinick, Class of 1972, who has shared his talent and lived out his great interest in music as a highly acclaimed composer, performer, and college professor. As Mr. Peter Carpenter recalled, *"David was wonderful to be around. Everyone looked up to him. He would have been successful in any field that he chose to pursue."*

I'll bet that Mr. C. is glad he chose music.

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: To give lasting recognition to graduates of Dieruff High School who have made exceptional contributions in their field, bringing honor to themselves and to Dieruff High School. Furthermore, it is the purpose of the Alumni Wall of Distinction to promote Husky Pride among current students, inspiring them to strive toward future accomplishments.

Criteria For Nomination: Nominees eligible for selection must have conducted themselves in such manner to reflect honor upon Dieruff High School, and have qualities of character and standards of conduct that are exemplary. Alumni must have graduated at least ten years prior to their nomination. Non-Dieruff graduates may be considered for "honorary" status on the Alumni Wall of Distinction.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrated commitment to and involvement with Dieruff High School and the community at an exceptional level.**
2. **Outstanding, enduring contribution to society by making a difference in the lives of others.**
3. **Outstanding professional contribution or achievement in his/her chosen field or endeavor. Considered categories are listed:** (A) Arts (B) Business (C) Education (D) Entertainment / TV / Film (E) Financial (F) Economic Development (G) Government (H) Historian (I) Law / Criminal Justice (J) Media / Journalism / Writing (K) Medicine / Health Science (L) Military

I Nominate The Following: (Please Type or Print)

Name _____ Maiden _____ Graduation Year _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

On a separate attached typed sheet, provide specific information pertaining to the nominee's occupation, education, community service, awards, honors, accomplishments, and any pertinent information to aid in their selection.

Nomination Submitted By:

Name _____ Maiden _____ Graduation Year _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Mail completed Nomination Form and Pertinent Information to:
Dieruff High School, Attn: Alumni Association, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA 18109

Gift Cards are a Giant Help to Dieruff Alumni Association

The Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Program represents a wonderful fundraising opportunity for our Alumni Association. It allows our alumni to contribute financially to our association... without costing them a dime!

Simply purchase the gift cards through the Alumni Association, and we earn 10% of the value of the cards purchased. The Giant gift cards can be used to purchase groceries and gas at any Giant location. There is no expiration date. The cards also make easy and most welcome gifts.



Complete the order form and mail it, along with a check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association" to *John Hughes, 2038 Majestic Overlook Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015*. Ordered gift cards will be sent to you by mail.

Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of \$25 cards _____

Number of \$50 cards _____

Number of \$100 cards _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Clip order form and mail, along with check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association", to John Hughes, 2038 Majestic Overlook Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association

Louis E. Dieruff High School
815 North Irving Street
Allentown, PA 18109

"Husky Connections"

Alumni Bulletin

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Email Address:

Jhughes2038@gmail.com

Website:
www.dieruff-
alumni.org

Husky Howls & Hugs

Greetings,

My social/work life has improved. We visited Husky High during cheer practice. It was so good to have a car ride. It was also good to see the girls and band members. I even found some stale gum and you know how I love gum. Mom and Aunt Cindy had treats for the girls and they shared some of their cookies with me. Met up with my official photographer, Uncle John. Mr. Boyd was there from the yearbook, too. More Diva pictures.



Last Saturday was wonderful. Cool temps and low humidity, almost Husky weather. Another fun car ride to visit the "ALLENTOWN" mural for a photo shoot. Posed in front of the mural of Kiska. Wow!

What a big mural! It is lovely and a piece of art. Learned about the building. The site was a prison used to house Hessian prisoners of war during the American Revolution. The sun was so bright; I had to borrow Uncle John's Dieruff baseball cap.

I walk almost every day. Learned there is no age limit to spreading happiness and husky pride. We greet the seniors walking at the retirement homes, as well as the kids from the various day cares. Nothing cheers up a person like a husky dog, especially a Diva Dog. So good for me, too. Hope to see you all soon.

Sending Husky Howls and Hugs, **Kiska V Diva Dog**